

Frequently Asked Questions

Updated November 2024

How does the challenge work?

The Healthcare Innovation Challenge is a 2-part competition:

- **Round 1 (*The Written Round*):** Teams draft a written solution to the challenge question. Your submission includes a 1-page written proposal and a 5-slide “pitch” deck outlining your solution.
- **Round 2 (*The Live Pitch*):** The top 5 scoring teams will advance to the final presentation round, where they will give a 5-minute pitch outlining their solution to an esteemed panel of expert judges and an audience of students and faculty from the University of Toronto.

Am I eligible to participate?

You must be a currently registered graduate student (Masters or Doctoral) or enrolled in a professional degree (e.g., MD, nursing, etc.) at the University of Toronto in order to participate.

Who can be on my team?

- **All team members must be registered students at the University of Toronto.**
- Teams must have **at least 1** graduate student from the Institute of Medical Science.
- Teams require **a minimum of 2** and may have **a maximum of 5** members.
- All team members must be registered graduate students (Masters or Doctoral) or enrolled in a professional degree (e.g., MD, nursing, etc.).

How can I register my team?

Only 1 member of your team is required to sign-up using the competition registration form found on our website and social media. The member who completes this form will be the team’s primary point of contact.

I do not have a team. Can I still join?

Yes! Complete the registration form and indicate that you are a FREE AGENT. You will be assigned to a team with other free agents, or assigned to a team that is recruiting free agents.

I have a team, but we do not have an IMS teammate. Can we join?

Yes, however, the maximum number of members per team is 5. Your team must leave the fifth spot available for an IMS free agent to join. Register your team using the form on our website and indicate in the checkbox that your team does not have an IMS member, and we will assign you one.

I qualified for Round 2 but cannot attend. Can I Zoom in?

No. We require all advancing teams to be physically present and on-site on the day of the live pitches. Your team can still pitch if some team members are not present.

What is the time commitment like?

The Healthcare Innovation Challenge is not meant to be a rigorous activity. While it's important to invest time and effort into developing your solution, the process is intended to be flexible. Your team can meet as often as needed to brainstorm, refine ideas, and discuss potential solutions. Once your concept is clear, you can divide tasks among team members based on your strengths and availability. The goal is to foster a collaborative environment where everyone can contribute at their own pace, leading to a well-rounded solution.

Are there prizes?

Yes! The top 3 teams in Round 2 are awarded cash prizes for their winning pitches. The top-scoring team will be connected with community and industry resources to help bring their innovative idea to life.

I cannot commit to participating. Can I still get involved?

Even if you're unable to participate as a competitor, there are still great ways to get involved:

- **Join as a volunteer:** Volunteers help with Round 2 logistics and ensuring everything runs smoothly. It's a fantastic way to support the teams and be part of the innovation process.
- **Attend as a guest:** If you're interested in seeing the innovative solutions in action, you can attend Round 2 live pitch day!

I participated in previous years. Can I participate again?

Yes! As long as you meet the eligibility criteria outlined on the first page of this FAQ, you may register and compete. In fact, we encourage you to join us again, whether or not you advanced to Round 2!

When do we find out the challenge question?

The challenge question and all case details will be emailed to all teams following the end of the registration period. Stay tuned!

What if I'm not an expert in the themes?

You do not need to have expertise or prior knowledge to succeed. The purpose of the Healthcare Innovation Challenge is to get you out of your academic comfort zone, exercise creativity, and put ideas to action. We are looking for creative solutions that will benefit the Canadian healthcare system.

How can I stay connected to learn more?

Stay connected with the Institute of Medical Science on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Instagram. The HIC updates its website regularly with important dates. Visit the HIC website at <https://www.healthcareinnovationchallenge.ca/> or the Institute of Medical Science's webpage at <https://ims.utoronto.ca/healthcare-innovation-challenge> for the latest updates.

I have more questions. Who can I contact?

Reach out to us by email at hic.ims@utoronto.ca. A member of our organizing team will respond to your inquiry at our earliest opportunity. You can also send us a direct message on the IMS social media.